**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising:

receiving channel observation information;

computing at least one parameter for distributed control, said computing being based at least in part on said channel observation information; and

transmitting said at least one parameter for distributed control.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least a basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over a basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,

wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

7. A node interface transmitter configured and arranged to transmit at least one parameter for distributed control to at least one among a plurality of nodes,

wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control is based at least in part on channel observation information.

8. The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least a basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

9. The node interface transmitter according to claim 8, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

10. The node interface transmitter according to claim 8, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

11. The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over a basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length.

12. The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,

wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

13. A system comprising:

a node interface transmitter configured and arranged to transmit at least one parameter for distributed control to at least one among a plurality of nodes; and

a node interface receiver configured and arranged to receive messages from at least one among the plurality of nodes over at least a basic access channel,

wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control is based at least in part on channel observation information, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to said basic access channel.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least said basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

16. The system according to claim 14, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

17. The system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter,

wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over said basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length.

18. The system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,

wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

19. A method comprising:

receiving at least one distribution parameter;

receiving at least one characteristic of a message;

choosing one among at least a basic access channel and a reserved access channel, said choosing being based at least in part on a relation between said at least one characteristic and said at least one distribution parameter;

transmitting said message over said chosen channel.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one characteristic relates to at least a length of said message.

21. The method according to claim 19, said method further comprising:

receiving at least one persistence parameter; and

retransmitting said message,

wherein said retransmitting occurs at least in part according to said at least one persistence parameter.

22. The method according to claim 21, said method further comprising generating at least one random number,

wherein said retransmitting occurs at least in part according to a relation between said at least one random number and said at least one persistence parameter.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a transmitter configured and arranged to transmit a message over one among a basic access channel and a reserved access channel;

a receiver configured and arranged to receive at least one distribution parameter; and

a processor configured and arranged to receive at least one characteristic of a message,

wherein said processor is further configured and arranged to choose one among at least said basic access channel and said reserved access channel, said choice based at least in part on a relation between said at least one characteristic and said at least one distribution parameter, and

wherein said transmitter is further configured and arranged to transmit said message at least in part according to said choice.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one characteristic relates to at least a length of said message.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said receiver is further configured and arranged to receive at least one persistence parameter; and

wherein said processor is further configured and arranged to cause said transmitter to retransmit said message at least in part according to said at least one persistence parameter.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, said processor being further configured and arranged to generate at least one random number,

wherein said processor is further configured and arranged to cause said transmitter to retransmit said message at least in part according to a relation between said at least one random number and said at least one persistence parameter.